

REMARKS

Favorable consideration and allowance are requested for claims 7, 8, and 10 in view of the following remarks.

Statement of Interview

As an initial matter, Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended to the undersigned during the telephone interview of June 1, 2009. The comments presented herein reflect the substance of the issues discussed during the interview.

Status of the Application

Claims 7, 8, and 10 are pending in this application. Claims 1-6 were previously withdrawn. Claim 9 was previously canceled. Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable by U.S. Patent No. 5,293,163 to Kakiyama *et al.* (the “Kakiyama patent”) in view of Japanese Patent Publication No. JP 11-281378 to Mizushima (the “Mizushima publication”) and U.S. Patent No. 6,870,487 to Nuesser *et al.* (the “Nuesser patent”). Claims 8 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable by Kakiyama patent in view of the Mizushima publication and the Nuesser patent and U.S. Patent No. 5,874,905 to Nanba *et al.* (the “Nanba patent”).

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

According to the Office Action, the combination of the Kakiyama patent, the Mizushima publication, and the Nuesser patent renders claim 7 obvious. In

response, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is moot in light of the amendment to claim 7, and, therefore, this claim is in condition for allowance

With respect to claims 8 and 10, Applicants respectfully submit that the Nanba patent does not disclose the subject matter of claim 7 missing from the Kakiyara patent, the Mizushima publication, and the Nuesser patent. Therefore, these claims are also in condition for allowance.

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If there are any questions regarding this response or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket # 029118.53153US).

Respectfully submitted,

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/Michael H. Jacobs/
Michael H. Jacobs
Registration No. 41,870

CROWELL & MORING, LLP
Intellectual Property Group
P.O. Box 14300
Washington, DC 20044-4300
Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844
MHJ:msy